

ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY INDIGENOUS TRIBES OF MAREDUMILLI MANDAL, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In the present research, we investigated ethnomedical information from the Indigenous people of Maredumilli Mandal, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India. We interviewed the tribal people at their residences. As part of the oral interviews, specific questions were asked and the information provided by the informants was noted. For their health, the local tribes were familiar with most of the common diseases like pain, cuts, fever, headaches, wounds, headaches, and sprains. Additional field trips were conducted in different seasons in the same area to gather information and also to confirm the data already collected. A total of 140 ethnomedicinal plant species were collected from 125 genera of 62 families used to treat 52 diseases.

KEYWORDS: Ethnomedicine, Indigenous Tribe, Maredumilli, East Godavari District.

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INTRODUCTION

The study of traditional medicine is ethnomedicine. Ethnomedicine is older than civilization. It is part of the customs and traditions of a specific community and is now considered a new source of wisdom. Historically, the use of plants for treating human and animal diseases in India can be traced back to the Rigveda, the earliest scripture of the Hindus (4500 -1600 BC) (Jain, 1994). A multitude of tribal groups and very diversified vegetation make India a top country for ethnobotany knowledge. It is estimated that India is home to 17,500 angiosperm species alone (Jain, 2000). Glimpses of Indian Ethno botany (Jain, 1981) contributed to the development of ethno botanic studies in India. These studies are especially important for aboriginal people (Maheshwari and Singh, 1984). In the last decade, the Department of Environment and Forest has been consistently conducting research on ethnobiology, which has generated a lot of curiosity about tribal medicine. Since time immemorial the primitive societies have depended on plants remedies for the treatment of diseases and disorders (Singh *et al.* 2003). Indian ethnobotanical contributions have earned the nation a prominent place on the world map of ethnobotanical studies (Jain 1963, c; 1965; 1967a, b; 1991, b). A future role for ethnobotany may be to contribute to sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity (Rajasekaran & Warren 1994). A large number of wild plants are useful for the tribal people for meeting their multifarious needs (Anonymous 1990). In Andhra Pradesh, ethnobotany has been well explored (Hemadri 1976, Ramarao and others 1999, R.V. Reddy and colleagues 1996, C.S. Reddy and colleagues 2000, Savitramma and others 2007, Krishnamurthy 1958, Sudhakar & Rao 1985, M.S. Raju 1996, Lakshmi & Lakshminarayana 2008). The present study aims to investigate the ethnomedicinal plants used by primitive tribes of Maredumilli Mandal and the practices they employ.

STUDY AREA

East Godavari District is located between 16° 30' and 17° 00' N Latitude, and 81° 30' and 82° 30' E Longitude. The East Godavari District covers an area of 10,807 square kilometres. The population of the district is 51.515 lakhs comprising 60 Mandals.



Based on Aadhar estimates for 2021, the total Maredu Hill population is 24,189. According to the 2011 Indian Census, the total Maredu Hill population is 19,507 people, with 10,166 males living in this Mandal. The major tribal group inhabiting in this mandal is Kodareddy, Koya Dora, jatapu and valmiki etc. They have a rich traditional knowledge of their surrounding vegetation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

An ethnomedical study was conducted by interviewing tribal elders and elderly people, herbal healers, tribal gurus, and vydhyas during different seasons during the years. Field trips were conducted several times between the years 2020 and 2021 in the district to document the ethnomedical knowledge of the tribal people in Maredu Hill. Information was collected on plant species, parts, vernacular names, and methods of use of useful plants. The ethnomedicinal plants were identified with the help of regional floras (Gamble & Fischer, 1935). Herbarium specimens of the plants were deposited at the Botany Department of the Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. Data on ethnomedicine is arranged alphabetically by botanical names, family names, vernacular names, habits, useful parts, and diseases (Table 1).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The present study reveals that 140 species belonging to 125 genera and 62 families were employed for various purposes. According to a family-wise analysis of ethnomedicinal plants, the most dominant families include the Fabaceae with 10 species (7.14 %), followed by the Caesalpiniaceae with 8 species (5.71 %), the Apocynaceae and Rutaceae with 6 species (8.57), and the Euphorbiaceae. The Asteraceae contain 5 species (10.71%) and Zingiberaceae, Anacardiaceae, Lamiaceae, Moraceae, and Rutaceae contain 4 species (14.29%), Combretaceae, Liliaceae, Lythraceae, Musaceae, and Sapindaceae possess 3 species (10.71%), and Amaranthaceae, Araceae, Cucurbitaceae, Ebenaceae, Lauraceae, Loganiaceae, Mimosaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Rhamnaceae, Sapotaceae and Sterculiaceae with 2 species each (15.71%) and remaining 33 families each one has single species (23.57%).

In the present study it is clearly evident that the local people use trees (40.00%) followed by herbs (31.43%), climbers (12.86 %), shrubs (12.87%) and parasites (2.86%). Depending upon the plant part used for medicinal purposes root constitutes the highest percentage (24.29 %) followed by stem bark (20.71 %), Leaf (17.86 %), whole plant (5.00 %), seed (5.71 %), tuber (5.71 %), fruit (5.71 %), Stem (1.43%), flowers (2.86 %), latex (1.43%), rhizome (2.14 %), gum (1.43%), perianth and corm (0.71% each). An intensive survey and repeated personal interviews in different pockets resulted in coming across 52 diseases in the area. The most common diseases afflicting tribal groups are ascertained by consulting local doctors. The most common ailments are Abdominal swelling, Anasarca, Antifertility, Blisters, Blood purification, Body pain, Breast pain, Cholera, Fertility, Gonorrhoea, Headache, HIV, Impotency, Leucoderma, Lice, Peptic ulcer, Snake bite, Sterility, Wounds, Abortion, Acidity, Antidote, Antifertility, Bronchitis, Burns, Conception, Cuts, Dandruff, Diabetes, Dyspepsia, Fractures, Hydrocele, Stomachache, Swellings, Anaemia, Blood pressure, Conjunctivitis, Cough, Dysmenorrhoea, Fever, Jaundice, Anthelmintic, Chest pain, Cold, Epilepsy, Leucorrhoea, Boils, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Asthma. For their healthcare system, the tribal people of East Godavari still rely on traditional medicine. Various kinds of valuable drugs have been discovered through documentation of traditional knowledge on health care practices. (Iwu 1994, Cox and Ballick 1994, Fabricant and Fransworth 2001, France et al 1994). The developing nations approximately 80% of the population dependant on ethno-medicine are seeking health care (Farnsworth et.al 1985).

CONCLUSIONS

Industrialization, urbanization, modernization and the consequent developmental activities on one side and acculturation of the ethnic societies on the other have set in motion causing destruction of forests and devastation of ethnobotanical knowledge. It is high time now, that all the Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations should redouble their efforts to conserve plants of potential economic value, particularly medicinal plants and the ecosystems they inhabit. The tribal people of the district have very good ethnomedicinal knowledge on the use of medicinal plants. In rural areas, such types of knowledge of ethnomedicinal plants were restricted to a few persons. The harvesting of the ethnomedicinal plants by the maximum use of underground parts from the wild may lead to the extinction of the species in the future.

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Table 1: Ethnomedicinal plants used for Indigenous Tribes of Maredumilli, East Godavari District

S.No	Scientific Name	Family	Habit	Part Used	Disease
1	<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Leaf	Jaundice
2	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Seed	Antidote
3	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Araceae	Herb	Rhizome	Cold
4	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Cholera
5	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i>	Alangiaceae	Tree	Leaf	Rheumatoid Arthritis
6	<i>Alstonia venenata</i>	Apocynaceae	Shrub	Stem Bark	Anthelmintic
7	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Root	Dyspepsia
8	<i>Amarphophallus paeoniifolius</i>	Araceae	Herb	Corm	Bone fractures
9	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Climber	Root	Diarrhoea
10	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Liliaceae	Herb	Tuber	Bronchitis
11	<i>Azima tetracantha</i>	Salvadoraceae	Shrub	Root	Asthma

Table 1 contd.,

12	<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i>	Barringtoniaceae	Tree	Leaf	Headache
13	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Asthma
14	<i>Bauhinia vahlii</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Climber	Root	Dysentery
15	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Herb	Whole Plant	HIV
16	<i>Bridelia retusa</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Chest pain
17	<i>Buchanania lanzan</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Boils
18	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Antifertility
19	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub	Seed	Abortion
20	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Shrub	Root	Epilepsy
21	<i>Canavalia gladiata</i>	Fabaceae	Climber	Root	Diarrhoea
22	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i>	Capparidaceae	Shrub	Root	Earache
23	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Sapindaceae	Climber	Leaf	Burns
24	<i>Cassia absus</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Herb	Flowers	Asthma
25	<i>Cassia alata</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Herb	Flowers	Asthma
26	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Herb	Root	Anthelmintic
27	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	Lauraceae	Parasite	Whole Plant	Hydrocele
28	<i>Celastrus paniculatus</i>	Celastraceae	Climber	Root Bark	Leucorrhoea
29	<i>Chlorophytum arundinaceum</i>	Liliaceae	Herb	Tuber	Hydrocele
30	<i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>	Flindersiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Cold
31	<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Leucorrhoea
32	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome	Rheumatoid Arthritis
33	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	Cuscutaceae	Parasite	Whole plant	Epilepsy
34	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Cyperaceae	Herb	Tuber	Diarrhoea
35	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Fever
36	<i>Datura metal</i>	Solanaceae	Shrub	Root	Asthma
37	<i>Dendrophthoe falcata</i>	Loranthaceae	Parasite	Stem Bark	Asthma
38	<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>	Fabaceae	Herb	Leaf	Acidity
39	<i>Dillenia pentagyna</i>	Dilleniaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Rheumatoid Arthritis
40	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Tuber	Sterility
41	<i>Diospyros chloroxylon</i>	Ebenaceae	Tree	Leaf	Diarrhoea
42	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>	Ebenaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Cold
43	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Asteraceae	Herb	Whole Plant	Acidity
44	<i>Elephantopus scaber</i>	Asteraceae	Herb	Root	Anthelmintic
45	<i>Elytraria acaulis</i>	Acanthaceae	Herb	Tuber	Anasarca
46	<i>Erythrina suberosa</i>	Fabaceae	Tree	Root	Dysentery
47	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Myrtaceae	Tree	Leaf	Antiseptic
48	<i>Eugenia bracteata</i>	Myrtaceae	Shrub	Root	Dysentery
49	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Leaf	Dysentery
50	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i>	Convolvulaceae	Herb	Leaf	Jaundice
51	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Latex	Boils
52	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Diarrhoea
53	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Diarrhoea
54	<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	Flaucortiaceae	Shrub	Root	Bronchial allergy
55	<i>Garuga pinnata</i>	Burseraceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Stomachache
56	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Liliaceae	Herb	Leaf	Asthma
57	<i>Glycosmis pentaphylla</i>	Rutaceae	Shrub	Fruit	Conjunctivitis
58	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Verbenaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Chest pain
59	<i>Gmelina asiatica</i>	Verbenaceae	Tree	Fruit	Dandruf
60	<i>Grewia tiliifolia</i>	Tiliaceae	Tree	Leaf	Lice
61	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Root	Snake bite
62	<i>Haldinia cordifolia</i>	Rubiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Leucorrhoea

Table 1 contd.,

63	<i>Helicteris isora</i>	Sterculiaceae	Shrub	Fruit	Dysentery
64	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Root	Diarrhoea
65	<i>Hemionitis arifolia</i>	Adiantaceae	Herb	Whole Plant	Common problems
66	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i>	Apocynaceae	Shrub	Stem Bark	Asthma
67	<i>Holoptelia integrifolia</i>	Ulmaceae	Tree	Root	Abortion
68	<i>Hugonia mystax</i>	Linaceae	Shrub	Root	Swellings
69	<i>Hybanthus ennaespermus</i>	Violaceae	Herb	Whole Plant	Impotency
70	<i>Ichnocarpus fruticatus</i>	Apocynaceae	Climber	Root	Epilepsy
71	<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>	Lythraceae	Tree	Leaf	Dysentery
72	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Cuts
73	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Lythraceae	Shrub	Leaf	Jaundice
74	<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lamiaceae	Herb	Inflorescence	Breast pain
75	<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	Rutaceae	Tree	Root	Rheumatoid Arthritis
76	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Lauraceae	Tree	Seed	Rheumatism
77	<i>Lygodium flexuosum</i>	Lygodiaceae	Herb	Root	Anaemia
78	<i>Madhuca indica</i>	Sapotaceae	Tree	Flowers	Asthma
79	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Fruit	Anthelmintic
80	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Gum	Boils
81	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Sapotaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Body pain
82	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	Melastomataceae	Tree	Root Bark	Leucorrhoea
83	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Mimosaceae	Herb	Root	Epilepsy
84	<i>Momordica charantia</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit	Diabetes
85	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Moringaceae	Tree	Leaf	Blood pressure
86	<i>Mucuna pruriense</i>	Fabaceae	Climber	Root	Dysmenorrhoea
87	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Rutaceae	Shrub	Root	Anaemia
88	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Musaceae	Herb	Leaf	Cough
89	<i>Naravelia zeylanica</i>	Ranunculaceae	Climber	Leaf	Cold
90	<i>Naringi crenulata</i>	Rutaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Dysentery
91	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Nelumbonaceae	Herb	Perianth	Conjunctivitis
92	<i>Nyctanthus arbor-tristis</i>	Nyctanthaceae	Tree	Seed	Dandruff
93	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Lamiaceae	Herb	Seed	Diarrhoea
94	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	Lamiaceae	Herb	Leaf	Conjunctivitis
95	<i>Oxalis scandens</i>	Oxalaceae	Climber	Stem Bark	Anaemia
96	<i>Oroxylum indicum</i>	Bignoniaceae	Tree	Root Bark	Antifertility
97	<i>Orthosiphon rubicundus</i>	Lamiaceae	Herb	Root	Diarrhoea
98	<i>Pavetta indica</i>	Rubiaceae	Shrub	Leaf	Blisters
99	<i>Pedaliium murex</i>	Pedaliaceae	Herb	Leaf	Dysmenorrhoea
100	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Leaf	Bone fractures
101	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	Arecaceae	Tree	Root	Asthma
102	<i>Polyalthia cerasoides</i>	Annonaceae	Tree	Gum	Chest pain
103	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaf	Cough
104	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Conception
105	<i>Pueraria tuberosa</i>	Fabaceae	Climber	Tuber	Peptic ulcer
106	<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>	Apocynaceae	Herb	Root	Fever
107	<i>Rauvolfia tetraphylla</i>	Apocynaceae	Herb	Root Bark	Blood pressure
108	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Rubiaceae	Herb	Root	Stomachache
109	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i>	Sapindaceae	Tree	Fruit	Asthma
110	<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>	Sapindaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Blood purification
111	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i>	Schrophulariaceae	Herb	Root	Dysentery
112	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Seed	Abdominal swelling

Table 1 contd.,

113	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Malvaceae	Herb	Root	Wounds
114	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	Verbenaceae	Herb	Plant	Antidote
115	<i>Sterculia urens</i>	Sterculiaceae	Tree	Root Bark	Fertility
116	<i>Streblus asper</i>	Moraceae	Tree	Root	Rheumatoid Arthritis
117	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i>	Loganiaceae	Tree	Seed	Blood pressure
118	<i>Strychnos nuxvomica</i>	Loganiaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Asthma
119	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Myrtaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Burns
120	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Asthma
121	<i>Tarenna asiatica</i>	Rubiaceae	Shrub	Stem Bark	Dysentery
122	<i>Tephrosia hirta</i>	Fabaceae	Herb	Root	Fever
123	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Combretaceae	Tree	Stem Bark	Asthma
124	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruit	Asthma
125	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruit	Cough
126	<i>Trichosanthes tricuspidata</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Tuber	Dysmenorrhoea
127	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	Asteraceae	Herb	Leaf	Cuts
128	<i>Tylophora indica</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Leaf	Asthma
129	<i>Vanda tassellata</i>	Orchidaceae	Herb	Root	Fractures
130	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>	Asteraceae	Herb	Seed	Leucorrhoea
131	<i>Viscum articulatum</i>	Loranthaceae	Parasite	Stem	Fractures
132	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Verbenaceae	Shrub	Leaf	Swellings
133	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Lythraceae	Shrub	Flowers	Diarrhoea
134	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>	Apocynaceae	Tree	Latex	Asthma
135	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Asteraceae	Herb	Root	Boils
136	<i>Xylia xylocarpa</i>	Mimosaceae	Tree	Root Bark	Gonorrhoea
137	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome	Dyspepsia
138	<i>Zingiber roseum</i>	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Tuber	Leucoderma
139	<i>Ziziphus oenoplea</i>	Rhamnaceae	Climber	Root	Chest pain
140	<i>Ziziphus rugosa</i>	Rhamnaceae	Tree	Leaf	Diabetes

